

RADIO MEDITERRANEAN

P.O. BOX 2

VALLETTA

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

SCHEDULE OF TRANSMISSIONS, TIMES & FREQUENCIES

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GMT

KHZ

1800 - 1857

SW1

6110

1800 - 1857

MW

1557

ARABIC

2130 - 2230

SW1

6110

2130 - 2230

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1557

FRENCH

2230 - 2330

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2230 - 2330

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ENGLISH

The broadcasts are made up of news bulletins from Mediterranean countries and others bordering the Mediterranean, international news, news analysis and commentaries, sports news and events. We also broadcast musical and cultural information mainly on the Mediterranean area, but coverage is also given to European and world events of importance.

Enquiries and requests from listeners are also welcome and comments for the improvement of the station would be appreciated.





MALTA[★]

GOZO & COMINO



A WARM WELCOME

The Maltese Islands have always made visitors feel very welcome and very often holidays were extended or repeated — take Ulysses for instance! He was bravely making his way home but, after stopping for rest on the island of Gozo, he could not tear himself away from his charming hostess Calypso, from the idyllic accommodation he found there and the variety of delicious food that must have been served to him!

Malta has, of course, moved with the times but the same warm welcome is still here and accommodation can be found to suit all standards and pockets. Moreover the food is, to say the least, inviting.

For the tourist who wishes to holiday in style and luxury, there are de luxe hotels to choose from, all of which are ideally located. They are air conditioned, have swimming pools and some even have their own private beach. These large hotels all offer conference facilities. So, whether it is business or pleasure that brings you to Malta, you are sure to find the amenities you require. And these comforts and amenities are not restricted to de luxe hotels. There are six other classes to choose from and then, again, for a more secluded or private holiday, there are available holiday flats and apartments enjoying country views or sea views or both and some also offer the use of a private swimming pool.

The Maltese love good food and any visitor, be he a gourmet or just a plain lover of good wholesome food is sure to find dishes to suit his taste. Apart from the interesting national cuisine, Mediterranean and European dishes are very expertly prepared at comparatively inexpensive prices, and to complement the good food, good wines, both local and foreign, are available.

Considering all that Malta has in store for the visitor, how can anyone resist being a modern-day Ulysses and linger on the Island for a while?

MALTA THROUGH THE AGES

Strategically situated almost at the centre of the Mediterranean, Malta has always attracted the attention of maritime powers. It possesses as a result a wealth of history out of all proportion to its diminutive size. The first known inhabitants were Sicilian neolithic farmers (c. 4000 B.C.). At about 3200 B.C. there are indications of fresh migrations and a Copper Age tradition becomes apparent. A startling cultural climax was reached in the unique series of megalithic temples, erected c. 2800—1900 B.C. This civilization collapsed mysteriously and the Islands were



subsequently inhabited by Bronze Age settlers. In the ninth century, the Phoenicians gained control and Malta's excellent harbours became a base for trading activities. The Island's strategic importance increased under the Carthaginians and attracted the attention of Greece and Rome. In 218 B.C. Titus Sempronius captured it for Rome but the Punic civilization was hardly affected.

In A.D. 60, the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked off Malta and the Islands were gradually converted to Christianity. The late Roman period is obscure but the catacombs of the fourth and fifth centuries point to considerable prosperity. The Byzantines were in control from c. the late sixth century till A.D. 870 when they surrendered to the Aghlabid governor of Moslem Sicily. The Arabs left a deep imprint which persisted long after the Christian reconquest by the Norman Count Roger in 1090. A succession of European dynasties ruled the Islands till 1530 when Charles V of Spain ceded them to the Knights of St. John. The heroic resistance of the Islands during the Turkish attack of 1565 brought great fame to Malta. A period of unprecedented prosperity followed. By the eighteenth century the Knights had, however, become an anachronism and in 1798 they capitulated to Napoleon Bonaparte.

The French occupation was brief. The Maltese rose in rebellion and with British naval help defeated the French garrison. The Islands were a British colony between 1800 and 1964. The epic defence of the Islands during World War II is well remembered. The Islands achieved independence in 1964 and in 1974 they became a republic within the Commonwealth.

THE ISLAND OF CULTURE

Malta joined the mainstream of European art when the Knights of St. John made Malta their home in 1530. The Knights fortified, Malta and built and embellished their new capital, Valletta in which the Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar built St. John's Conventual Church, the Auberges and other palaces.

Malta was always lucky in the artists that made the Island their home. Matteo Perez d'Aleccio painted a frieze in the Grand Master's Palace; so did Filippo Paladini, exiled here from Florence. A blessing in disguise was Caravaggio's flight from Italy. In the Oratory of the Co-Cathedral he painted his masterpiece, the 'Beheading of St. John'. He also painted a 'St. Jerome' for the chapel of Italy. The next important visitor was Mattia Preti from Calabria. He transformed Cassar's austere church into a marvel of Baroque decoration. He was versatile and prolific and his works are found all over Malta.

Beach Establishments

Bathing is safe anywhere around the Islands (no tides). Sea temperature averages 22.8°C between May and October.

Beach establishments in the high season, between May and October, are equipped with bar, restaurant, changing cabins, showers, umbrellas and other facilities. On some beaches, facilities exist for the hire of self-drive speed boats, dinghies, rowing boats, water skis, etc.

Beer

Maltese beer is excellent. Foreign beers are also available.

Boat Services Malta—Gozo

A passenger car ferry operates several times daily between Malta and Gozo. For further information call at the Gozo Channel Co. Ltd., Hay Wharf, Sa Maison. Tel. 603964/5/6.

Camping

There are no organised or official camping/ caravanning sites in Malta.

Casino

French and American Roulette, Baccarat (Chemin de Fer), Black-Jack and Boule are played according to international rules at the palatial Casino, St. Julian's.

Driving Licences

International Driving Permits and other driving licences are endorsed free to bona fide tourists at Police Headquarters, Floriana. Tourists driving own car need no endorsement. Driving is on the left. There is a speed limit of 64 km.p.h. (in built up areas 40 km.p.h.)

Electricity Supply

240 volts-single phase-50 cycles.

Fruit

There is a good variety of fresh fruit available, both local and imported. The best Maltese fruit are oranges (December to March) and grapes. Also delicious are strawberries (smaller but more tasty than the imported variety), melons, mulberries, tangerines, pomegranates and figs.

Guides

The services of government licensed guides can be obtained by application to the Tourist Information Office, at 1, City Gate Arcade, Valletta. A number of local travel agencies organise sight-seeing tours.

Language

Almost everyone speaks English in Malta. Italian, French and German speaking guides are also available.

Licensing hours

Opening hours of bars, restaurants and cafes normally extend between 9 a.m. and 1 a.m. and beyond. Alcoholic beverages may be bought up to 1 a.m. Most hotel bars close between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and some open after 6 p.m.

Religion

Malta is Roman Catholic and there are also churches belonging to various denominations.

Shopping Hours

All business establishments are generally open between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Saturdays till 8.00 p.m.) with a three or four hour lunch break. They are closed on Sundays. Prices are fixed on all items.

Souvenirs

Malta weave, pottery, glass, ceramics, dolls, copper and brass articles. Malta is renowned for its gold and silver filigree work and hand-made lace. A display of local crafts is mounted at the Malta Government Crafts Centre, St. John's Square, Valletta. A duty-free shop is open on a twenty-four hour basis at the Departure Lounge, Luqa Airport.

Taxis

Taxis are identified by white number-plates, with red numbers. Taxis, which are all fitted with taximeters, charge Government controlled prices. A number of car-hire firms offer self-drive cars comprehensively insured at very reasonable terms.

Telephone Communications

Overseas calls may be made to nearly all parts of the world.

Television and Radio

Xandir Malta, a division of Telemalta Corporation, provides broadcasting services under the overall supervision and control of the Broadcasting Authority. Television programmes include British and American productions. Besides live programmes broadcast by Television Malta, there is also good reception of transmissions from the two Italian television networks. Radio Malta transmits daily on three services: 998 KHz (medium wave); 755 KHz (medium wave) including Italian language broadcasts and a music service on 89.7 MHz VHF/FM. A cable radio service on a two-channel network is also provided.

Time

One hour ahead of G.M.T. Summer time commences on the third Sunday in April and lasts till the third Sunday in September, when Malta time is two hours ahead of G.M.T.

Tour of the Harbours, Valletta

2-hour launch cruises with guide operate from the Sliema jetty (walk-on, walk-off).

Transport (Public)

All towns and villages in the Island are linked to the capital by frequent bus services.

Water

Tap drinking water is perfectly safe.

Wine

There is a wide variety of good and inexpensive Maltese wines. Foreign wines are also available.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN MALTA

VALLETTA

Valletta, the capital, was built by French Grand Master of the Order, Jean de la Valette, after the epic siege of 1565. It dominates, in one wide sweep, the Island's historic Grand Harbour—one of the finest natural ports in Europe. Within its limited boundaries is reflected some of Malta's rich heritage of archaeology, history, architecture, art and culture.

The National Museum of Archaeology

The more important collections covering Maltese archaeology, are housed in the Auberge de Provence, Valletta, one of the Inns of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Collections of pre-historic pottery, statuettes, stone tools, personal and other ornaments recovered from the Maltese megalithic temples and other prehistoric sites, are exhibited. Typical examples of tomb furniture of the Punic and Roman periods are also displayed.

The National Museum of Fine Arts

An 18th century palace houses paintings, sculpture, furniture and objects connected with the Order of St. John. Works of Domenico di Michelino, Caraccio, Perugino, Tintoretto, Reni, Valentin, Mathias Stomer, Mattia Preti, Ribera, Tiepolo, Favray and Vernet are permanently displayed. A section is specially reserved for works by Maltese artists. Temporary exhibitions, together with concerts and lectures, are also held.

St John's Co-Cathedral

St. John's Co-Cathedral, formerly the Conventual Church of the Order is historically and artistically one of the most important monuments on the Island. It was built between 1573 and 1577 to the design of Gerolamo Cassar (1520—1586), chief engineer of the Order. The Beheading of St. John , Caravaggio's master-piece, hangs in the Oratory.

Palace of the Grand Masters

The Magisterial Palace, designed by the Maltese Gerolamo Cassar, was completed in 1574. Many of the State apartments are decorated with friezes depicting episodes from the history of the Order. On view are works by Ribera, Van Loo and Batoni.

The Armoury

The Armoury of the Knights is a hall in the Palace where arms and armour of various periods and descriptions are displayed.

Upper Barrakka Gardens

The site commands a magnificent view of the Grand Harbour.

Manoel Theatre

The Manoel Theatre was originally built as a Court theatre by Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena in 1731 and is one of the oldest theatres in Europe.

THE THREE CITIES

Across the Grand Harbour, to the south of Valletta, are Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, best approached by dgħajsa from the Customs House, Valletta, across the harbour.

PAOLA AND TARXIEN

The Hypogeum (Circa 2,400 B.C.)

This is an ancient underground monument, 12 metres below street level. It consists of a system of caves, passages and cubicles cut in the rock in imitation of the interior of a megalithic temple.

Megalithic Monuments

The remains of numerous temples erected in the Fourth and Third millenium B.C. are unique in the world. Stone idols, animals' representation carved in relief, stone tables, altars and screens decorated with spirals and other patterns, fire places, ornamented niches and oracular chambers enhance the attractions of these magnificent sanctuaries.

THE SOUTH

Ghar Dalam (Cave and Museum)

This cave is a veritable depository of fossil remains and extinct species such as dwarf elephants and hippopotami which roamed the Island some 170,000 years ago.

Blue Grotto

This picturesque grotto and neighbouring sea caves mirror the brilliant phosphorescent colours of underwater flora.

MARSAXLOKK

The Turkish forces invaded Malta in 1565 from the shores of this village. Here also landed the troops of Napoleon to whom the Knights sur-

rendered in 1798. In the harbour lies the largest fishing fleet of the Island.

Ghar Hasan

A huge cave with a large window in the cliff face . . rising perpendicularly out of the water.

MDINA

Mdina, the old capital of Malta is a typical medieval town situated almost exactly in the centre of the Island. The Silent City, as it is also known, commands one of the most magnificent views of the Island and, though fully inhabited, silence reigns supreme.

The Cathedral

The XI Century Siculo-Norman Cathedral was destroyed by an earthquake in 1693. The present Cathedral was built by Lorenzo Gafa' four years later and is believed to occupy the site of the house of Publius, the Roman Governor at the time of St. Paul's stay on the Island, who later became the first Bishop of Malta. The Cathedral Museum contains various art treasures.

National Museum of Natural History

Situated at Vilhena Palace, Mdina, this museum houses seven sections comprising both local and foreign collections including skeletal anatomy, fish, insects, birds, shells, fossils and geology.

RABAT

Museum of Roman Antiquities and Roman Villa

Evidence of the wealth and magnificence of Malta during the Roman rule (218 B.C.—870 A.D.) can be seen here.

St. Paul's Grotto

St. Paul lived in this cave during his three-month stay on the Island after his shipwreck in A.D. 60.

St. Agatha and St. Paul's Catacombs

These Catacombs at Rabat are typical of the underground Christian cemeteries which were common in the 4th Century A.D. The characteristic feature of the Maltese catacombs is the presence of round tables known as 'agape tables' hewn out of rock, with slanting sides on which mourners reclined to partake in a farewell repast.

Buskett Garden

This is a beautiful public garden with orchards containing orange and lemon trees and vines.

Verdala Castle

This is situated on a hill top overlooking Buskett Garden. It was built by Grand Master Verdalle in 1588 as a summer residence. Following recent restoration works, this historic building is now being used as a Government Guest Palace.

ATTARD

San Anton Gardens

These gardens, containing an immense variety of plants, shrubs and trees were planned by Grand Master Antoine de Paule in the 17th century. Annual fruit, flower, vegetable, fur and feather shows and fairs are held here.

MOSTA

Mosta Dome

The parish church of Mosta was designed by the Maltese architect Giorgio Grognet de Vasse' and the first stone was laid in 1833. It contains several paintings by local artists and has one of the largest domes in the world.

SLIEMA

Sliema (with the neighbouring St. Julian's—St. George's area) is the largest and most modern town in Malta, a fashionable residential area and a noted resort. It has a 3 km long sea-front promenade which is one of the most frequented spots on the Island. It has an important and lively shopping centre with cafes and restaurants, the largest group of hotels in Malta, a number of night-spots including the palatial Casino, popular beaches and bathing establishments with facilities for water sports.

The Yacht Marina

Yachts of various nationalities are appreciating at first hand the available yachting amenities which include water, telephone, electricity, weather forecasts, D.F. Beacon, ship-to-shore radio, chart depot, supply of bottled gas etc. A yacht yard disposing of 9 modern slipways is in full operation and has facilities for slipping, repairing, converting and servicing of all sizes of yachts up to 500 tons.

GOZO

The Isle of Calypso is the sister-island of Malta, six km. to the north-west. Victoria, popularly known as **Rabat**, is the island's capital. The main seaport is **Mġarr Harbour**.

The Citadel and Museum

The Citadel or 'Gran Castello' has a magnificent cathedral, impressive historic bastions and the mysterious remains of old houses.

Ggantija Prehistoric Temples

A group of two very important temples erected side by side on the Xaghra plateau.

Alabaster Caves

In the small township of Xaghra are two underground caves with strange alabaster forms of stalactites and stalagmites. These are popularly known as **Xerri's Grotto** and **Ninu's Grotto**.

Calyпсо's Cave

This cave, overlooking the red sands of Ramla Bay and situated in the cliff face some distance from Xaghra, has only a legendary connection with Calypso, but it dominates one of the most magnificent views in Malta and Gozo.

The Basilica of Ta' Pinu

One of the most outstanding churches in the Maltese Islands is Ta' Pinu, perhaps because of its simplicity. It stands in open country close to the village of Gharb and the hamlet of Ghammar.

Marsalforn

A bathing and fishing village on the north coast.

Xlendi

This land-locked sandy beach, tucked away in the south under towering cliffs, has a character all its own.

Xewkija

A small town with a colossal new church which has been built around the old parish church of St. John the Baptist.

The Inland Sea and Window

The Inland Sea is a natural pebbly bathing pool with crystal clear water and sheer cliffs hanging dramatically over it; it is also called 'il-Qawra'.

COMINO

This is the smallest of the three islands; with one hotel and no cars to disturb the peace, it has the real get-away-from-it-all atmosphere. Boat trips from Malta to Comino (a 20-minute crossing) are operated during summer.

SPORT

Football

Association Football is highly popular. The principal matches of the Main Football Association are played at the Stadium, Gzira, from October to June.

Water-polo

The Amateur Swimming Association organises a summer league which takes place at various water-polo clubs. The Association also organises other aquatic events in the summer months.

Sailing

Sailing regattas are held frequently between April and November. These usually start from the Yachting Centre. The Valletta Yacht Club is situated at Couvre Porte, Manoel Island, in Marsamxett Harbour (temporary members

accepted). The Middle Sea Race organised by the Valletta Yacht Club and the Royal Ocean Racing Club is a major event in the international sailing calendar.

Polo

Played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays (afternoons) at the Marsa Sports Club, Marsa, between mid-September and mid-July. Non-playing members are welcome. Visitors may use the Club on payment of a small fee.

Horse Racing

Horse races, under the auspices of the Racing Club, are held on Sunday afternoons at the Marsa Sports Ground, Marsa, from the end of October to mid May. There are seven events, including flat and trotting races, with a double tôte forecast pool and sweepstake on every race.

Golf

The only golf course in Malta is run by the Golf Club (Tel: 620842); it is an 18-hole golf course (4930 m, Par 67), at the Marsa Sports Club, Marsa, which also has a variety of sporting facilities including tennis, squash, cricket, polo and horse-racing. Temporary membership of the Sports Club can be arranged. There is a Club House with changing rooms and bar. The hard fairways of the course are known to flatter the driving ability of the high handicapper; the season is November to April. The Club is within easy reach of Valletta and Sliema, about 15 minutes by car.

Scuba Diving

The Federation of Underwater Activities organises various underwater sports meetings. Ideal conditions exist in Malta for this sport.

Other Sport

This includes riding, badminton and shooting. There is also a 10-lane fully automatic pinspotter bowling centre at Msida.

GUIDE TO EVENTS

Useful publications on current events are available from most booksellers and all hotels.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day	Jan 1
Good Friday	(movable)
Jum il-Helsien (Freedom Day)	
The National Day	March 31
May Day	May 1
The Assumption (Santa Marija)	Aug 15
Republic Day	Dec 13
Christmas Day	Dec 25

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES:

MALTA:

National Tourist Organization—Malta
Harper Lane,
Floriana.
Telephone: 24444
Cables: Holiday—Malta
Telex: 105 Holiday MT.

LONDON:

Malta Government Tourist Office.
Malta House,
24 Haymarket,
London SW1Y 4DJ
Telephone: 01-930 9851/5
Cables: Maltarep—London SW1
Telex: 261102

EIRE

Hon. Consul for Malta
Mr. Noel Judd
1, Upper Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2.
Telephone: Dublin 760333

Malta — Tourist Information

GEOGRAPHY

The Maltese Islands, which consist of Malta, Gozo, Comino and two other uninhabited islands, are situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Malta is 93 km from Sicily and 290 km from N. Africa. The total area is 316 square km (Malta 246, Gozo 67, Comino 2.7). The longest distance in Malta from the south-east to the north-west, is about 27 km and the widest distance is 14.5 km in an east-westerly direction. The corresponding figures for Gozo are 14.5 km and 7.2 km. Malta has no mountains or rivers. A series of low hills with terraced fields on the slopes characterize the Islands. The coastline of Malta is well indented with harbours, bays, creeks, sandy beaches and rocky coves. The length of the shoreline round Malta is 137 km and 43 km round Gozo. Population: 320,000
Capital: Valletta
Seaport: Grand Harbour, Valletta
Airport: Luqa (6 km from Valletta)

CLIMATE

The climate is warm and healthy; there are no biting winds, fog, snow or frost. Rain falls only for very short periods, averaging about 583 mm in a whole year. The average temperature for winter (November—April) is 14°C and for summer (May—October) 23.1°C. Average daily sunshine hours for winter are 6.55 hours and for summer 10.16 hours. The hottest period is from mid-July to mid-September. The heat is tempered by cool breezes from the surrounding sea. The table below gives monthly averages taken over a period of 30 years for sunshine, temperature and rainfall.

THE PEOPLE

The people have developed and maintained characteristics which distinguish them as a peace-loving nation with a sense of hospitality for which they are renowned. 'The inhabitants showed us no small courtesy', wrote St. Luke, referring to

Month	Sunshine hours	Rainfall mm.	Temperature		Mean Monthly Sea Temp. C.
			Max C.	Min C.	
Jan.	5.46	90.1	15.1	09.5	14.5
Feb.	6.36	60.8	15.3	09.3	14.5
Mar.	7.33	44.7	16.5	10.2	14.5
Apr.	8.46	24.0	18.8	11.9	16.1
May	9.99	08.9	23.1	15.1	18.4
June	11.23	03.8	27.4	18.6	21.1
July	12.15	00.9	30.2	21.2	24.5
Aug.	11.36	08.8	30.6	21.8	25.6
Sept.	9.00	40.4	27.8	20.4	25.0
Oct.	7.22	123.6	23.8	17.2	22.2
Nov.	6.50	76.8	20.0	13.9	19.5
Dec.	5.20	100.2	16.6	11.1	16.7

the welcome given by the Maltese to St. Paul when he was shipwrecked on the island in A.D. 60. Another characteristic of the people is their joviality. This springs mainly from the agreeable warm climate with sunshine throughout the year. For the same reason, the Maltese enjoy one of the highest standards of health in the world. Malta has been described as the Island of contrasts: here, east meets west and the old blends harmoniously with the new. But the Maltese are distinguished as a decidedly separate nation by their ancient tongue. Constantly and uninterruptedly used to this very day, it is a distinct language with a Semitic structure enhanced by foreign additions and assimilations.

HOW TO GET TO MALTA

The following airlines run scheduled services to Malta: Air Malta, Alitalia, British Airways, Libyan Arab Airlines and Union de Transports Aériens (UTA). AIR MALTA, the Island's **National Airline**, flies to Amsterdam, Brussels, Dubai, Frankfurt, Kuwait, London, Lyons, Manchester, Paris, Rome, Tripoli, Tunis, Vienna and Zurich.

CUSTOMS

Personal clothing and personal belongings, intended for the visitor's own use, are not liable to duty if used. Each adult visitor is allowed free 200 cigarettes, or their equivalent in cigars or tobacco, together with 1 bottle of spirits and 1 bottle of wine and a reasonable quantity of perfumery/toilet waters not exceeding £M2 in value.

PORT REGULATIONS

Visitors arriving in Malta by air or sea are required to present either their national passport or a visitor's passport and fill in a brief landing card.

HEALTH

An up-to-date medical and health service is run by the Government. Visitors coming from U.S.A.

Canada, Australia and Europe do not require certificates of vaccination or inoculation (subject to epidemiological situation remaining unchanged). Malta has a reciprocal agreement for medical treatment with the United Kingdom providing for immediate medical care to tourists from the United Kingdom. The Principal General Hospital is St. Luke's, Gwardamanga (Tel.21251, 607860) in Malta and Craig Hospital (Tel. 556851) in Gozo.

CURRENCY

Import:

(a) Local currency: up to £M50 in notes and coins. (b) Foreign currency: (including Travellers cheques, Bank Drafts, etc.) unlimited; but non-resident travellers should declare all their holdings to the Customs Officials at the time of entry.

Export:

(a) Local currency : up to £M25 in notes and coins. (b) Foreign currency : **Residents** are allowed a maximum of £M250 in Travellers Cheques, Letters of Credit or foreign currency notes. **Non-resident travellers** may take out with them the balance of unspent foreign currency brought in by them and which had been declared to the Customs authorities at the time of entry. The Malta Pound is divided into 100 cents of 10 mils each. The rate of exchange is obtained from any local bank. Malta's gold and silver proof and brilliant un-circulated coins (25-pound, 50-pound and 100-pound coins in gold, and 1-pound, 2-pound and 5-pound coins in silver) are all legal tender. Enquiries are to be directed to the Malta Coins Distribution Centre, Central Bank of Malta, Castille Palace, Valletta. Coins are sold at a premium. Visitors are advised that permits to take these coins out of Malta are obtained from the Central Bank of Malta.

IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS

The importation of dogs and cats into Malta is strictly banned.

GENERAL INFORMATION

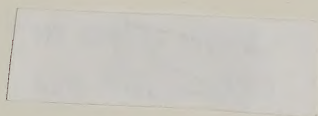
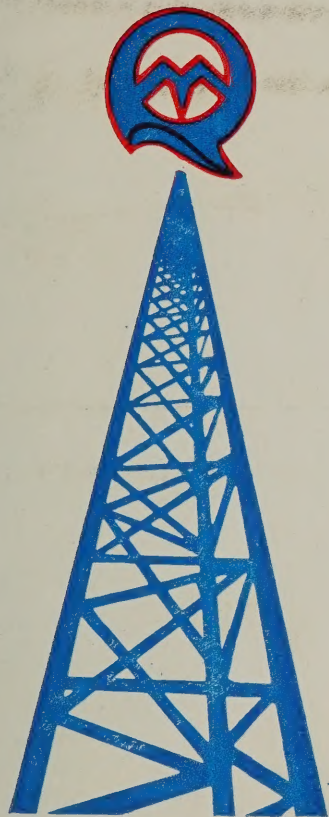
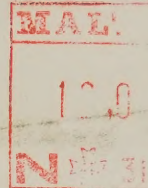
Accommodation

The Maltese Islands offer varied accommodation in hotels, guest-houses, holiday complexes and in self-catering apartments and villas. These establishments are all officially classified according to international standards.

Banks

Usually open 8.30 a.m.—12.00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 8.30 a.m.—11.30 a.m., Saturdays. Closed on national and religious holidays. Foreign exchange facilities are available at Luqa Airport on a 24-hour service all the year round.





NILES MI 49120

U.S.A.

Radio Mediterranean

P.O. BOX 2, VALLETTA~MALTA.



In the field of sculpture, the Maltese Melchiorre Gafà achieved European fame. In Malta he is represented by two statues carved in wood — a St. Paul in Valletta, and a Madonna of the Rosary in Rabat. His brother Lorenzo was an excellent architect who brought to Malta some of the glories of Roman baroque.

Domenico Cachia rebuilt the Auberge de Castile in 1744 giving it one of the most imposing facades in Europe. The same century saw the arrival of the Frenchman Antoine de Favray who painted a number of altarpieces, several elegant portraits and some fascinating Maltese interiors. The Maltese Francesco Zahra became popular with his portraits and religious compositions.

When the Knights left in 1798 a glorious period of artistic achievement came to an end. During the British period a number of revivals found their echo here and Maltese artists began to look beyond the European mainland for inspiration. The sculptor Antonio Sciortino made a name for himself abroad, and in Malta he produced some important monuments.

An XVIIIth century palace in Valletta houses the National Museum of Fine Arts where paintings, sculpture, furniture and objects connected with the Order of St. John are displayed. A section is specially reserved for works by Maltese artists.

THE ISLAND'S EVENTS

Malta has been called 'a living microcosm of Mediterranean history'. Few people realise or expect that on so small an island one can come across such a wealth of historic traditions many of which are reflected in the people's colourful calendar of events. Whatever the occasion, solemn, social or frivolous, the Maltese just love to celebrate.

In early spring the Holy Week celebrations take place. On Good Friday afternoon solemnity and pageantry predominate in the Passion processions held all over the island.

The second week-end in May is ruled by 'King Carnival' when a care-free and merry-making atmosphere prevails. During this 'festa of fun' thousands throng the capital, Valletta, to watch the decorated floats, grotesque masks, band marches and dancing competitions.

Summer is ushered in by the 'Harvest Festival Night' popularly known as 'Mnarja', which is held on the week-end preceeding June 29 in the historic Buskett gardens.

The most attractive events in the Malta calendar are the numerous village 'festas' falling mostly during summer. These festivities in honour of the village patron saint are characterised by band marches, artistic street decorations

and colourful firework displays. The highlight of the ceremonies is reached when the statue of the patron saint is carried through the village streets in a religious procession. The village feast, however, is something more to the islanders; it is indeed a way of life.

On the first weekend in September the Maltese commemorate the raising of two bitterly fought sieges — that of 1565 and of 1940—43. On this day, a centuries-old regatta is held in Grand Harbour and it is one of the most popular of spectator sports.

Malta's National Day is celebrated in a grand way on March 31; this day—Freedom Day—marks yet another glorious facet of the Island's history.

Malta's calendar pages are further punctuated with numerous other social and cultural activities. Yes, there are many events which, although not necessarily crowd-pullers, are a reminder of the Island's character, moulded as it has been by the various cultures and civilizations during the past 6000 years.

SPORT AND RELAXATION

It may seem incongruous that an island like Malta with its relatively slow pace of life, enjoying the sun for the greater part of the year, an ideal spot for the tourist to free himself of all cares, should also have a very active sporting side to its character. But it has.

Football is forever gaining ground on the Island and during the football season thousands of Maltese and visitors enjoy this internationally popular sport. Tennis is popular too, and there are many tennis courts at the Marsa Sports Club where visitors are welcomed as temporary members.

Facilities are available for golf, cricket, squash, badminton, archery and bowling, and for those interested in horses there is horse riding, polo and horse racing.

Table-tennis, billiards and chess are played and then, as is to be expected, lovers of sea sports are very well catered for.

For those who prefer a less organised form of sport such as swimming or walking, Malta has a great deal to offer. There are beaches all round the Island, sandy, rocky, secluded or right in the centre of a town. As for walking — this is one of the best ways of discovering and getting to know the Island, its character, its people, and its history. Malta is small and distances are therefore comparatively insignificant. However, the Island offers a variety of views as well as of interests. For those who like a rugged countryside and an extensive sea-view a walk from Dingli Cliffs to Siggiewi will be very enjoyable, as will also be a walk from



Marsaxlokk to Delimara or right at the other end of the Island, from Marfa to Cirkewwa.

If you wish to appreciate the atmosphere of an old city, then take time to walk around Mdina with its beautiful old palaces. For a taste of tradition and prehistory, a walk around il-Maqluba, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra will be interesting, educational and will provide both exercise and fresh air.

THE SEA AND ITS ATTRACTIONS

Malta's central position in the Mediterranean has always been of vital importance to the Island's economy. For the holiday-maker this position is also of great importance in ensuring the success of his stay.

The sea around the Island has a great deal to offer. For the visitor in search of peace and relaxation the balmy waters extend their ever-open invitation. From almost any point on the Island, views of the clear blue waters can be appreciated. Endless hours may be enjoyed at the water's edge just listening to the soft waves lapping against the shore while fishing for your lunch or maybe just providing food for a neighbouring cat.

A very attractive sight in Malta's bays and harbours are the brightly coloured boats called 'dghajsa' in the singular, 'dghajjes' in the plural. Some are for hire to take visitors to grottos or caves round the Island. Harbour cruises in yachts are organised all the year round as are also excursions to Malta's sister islands Gozo and Comino. Daily ferry services also connect Malta and Gozo.

For the sports-minded, facilities are available for water-skiing, sailing enthusiasts can enjoy their pastime in hired craft and for the professional sailor arrangements can be made for the chartering of yachts.

The swimming enthusiast will find a beach to suit his every mood and requirement. Sandy beaches for families, rocky beaches for those who prefer them and there are also isolated spots for those who want privacy. Of course, fresh water and salt water pools, as well as heated swimming pools, can be found.

Therefore whether you intend your visit to be relaxing or active, the sea around Malta is sure to have something in store for you.

SOUVENIRS OF AN ISLAND

In recent years the Government of Malta decided to put the Maltese handicrafts industry on a sound basis. The Malta Crafts Centre ('Centru Snajja' Maltin) was inaugurated in

1971 with the primary aim of reviving old crafts and of encouraging new ones. This Government-run Centre situated opposite St John's Cathedral in Valletta, houses a permanent exhibition of traditional and contemporary souvenirs genuinely manufactured in the Maltese Islands.

A Crafts Village (*Raħal is-Snajja*) was opened at Ta' Qali in 1973 to help develop further handicraft production. This is situated very close to the old capital of Mdina. The workshops at the Crafts Village provide an excellent opportunity for the visitor to see hand-made articles being manufactured.

Amongst the vast range of products, the visitor can find household objects, candlesticks, pendants, decorative tiles, plates, nameplates and numerous other articles all worked in pottery which is one of the most ancient Maltese crafts.

The manufacture of mouth-blown glassware was introduced in 1966. More recently another type of hand-made decorative glass has been added to the choice of locally manufactured ornamental glass.

Local stone is used not only for building but for the production of ornamental works. Calcite stone takes a fine polish and is easily adapted to various shapes. Woodwork items include ashtrays, pipes and models of the traditional Maltese boats.

Malta is renowned for its delicate lace but the most precious production is gold and silver filigree, neatly manufactured and extremely symmetrical in its minute details.

Hand-spinning and semi-mechanical spinning of wool and cotton are nowadays used by local weavers. One can also find in Malta metal work, wrought iron, brass, wool and leather articles, soft toys, dolls, basketry and wickerware — the list is endless.

Further information is available in the following brochures:

- Water Sports ● Sightseeing ● Malta's Archaeology ● Gozo and Comino ● Hotels and Guest Houses ● Inexpensive Accommodation ● Map of Malta and Gozo.

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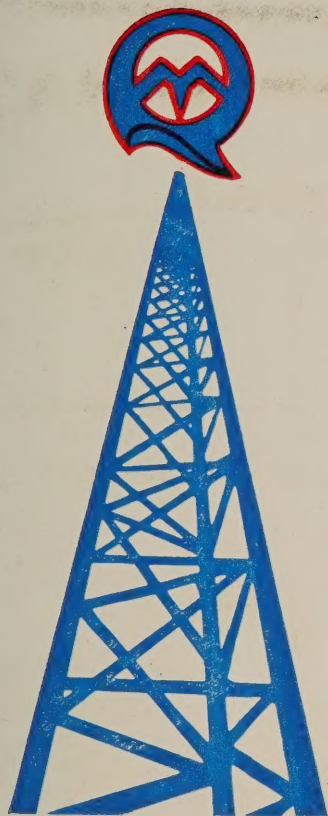
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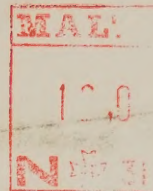
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